

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2-6 and 10 are cancelled, claims 1 and 7 are amended and new claim 21 is added.

In response to Examiner's restriction Office Action dated July 7, 2004, Applicants, through their attorney, elected Group I consisting of Claims 1-11 and requested cancellation of Claims 12-20 without prejudice. However, in the amendments to the Claims, Applicants inadvertently also cancelled Claim 11. As such, depending Claim 21 has been added, which was previously Claim 11.

35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 102(b) as anticipated by Masui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,759,594), and Claims 1-5 were rejected under 102(b) as anticipated by Shibata (JP11077691 or equivalent English Translation).

Although the rejections are traversed, Claims 2-5 have been cancelled, and new limitations to Claim 1 have been added to more particularly distinguish the claimed invention from the cited art. "Lateral" and "horizontal" movements of the cutter blade have been added to the cutting step providing dual movements of the cutter blade during the cutting step. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claim 6 was rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masui et al. in view of Shibata. Claim 7 was rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masui et al. and Shibata in view of Sakamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,368,546). Claim 8 was rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masui et al., Shibata, and Sakamoto in view of Ota et al. (U.S. Patent No.

5,811,053). Claim 9 was rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masui et al. in view of Sakamoto.

Although the rejections are traversed, Claim 1, as discussed above, has been amended to clarify the dual movements of the cutter blade during the cutting step. Such is not disclosed or suggested by Masui et al. nor Shibata, nor any of the cited references. The cutting blade in Masui et al. is attached to the outer peripheral side surface of the mold and does not move. The cutter in Shibata moves in the single direction of the closing of the two dies. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does teach or suggest alone or in combination the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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